

Message

From: Wax, Peter N. [pwax@nd.gov]
Sent: 2/21/2020 2:13:34 PM
To: Wirick, Holiday [wirick.holiday@epa.gov]
Subject: RE: Thanks - RE: Quick question about PFAS criteria

Holly:

I will return when water is flowing.

Optimistic that enough data can be collected to confidently predict the water chemistry and to a lesser degree percent contribution.

Without historical data, teasing out what the contribution from current activities and what has been happening slowly throughout the entire watershed will be difficult.

Sincerely,

Pete

From: Wirick, Holiday
Sent: Thursday, February 20, 2020 4:29 PM
To: Wax, Peter N. <pwax@nd.gov>
Subject: RE: Thanks - RE: Quick question about PFAS criteria

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Wow Pete, thanks for the update. It's impressive that they did the wetland compensation/construction correctly. I'll be curious to hear about your return trip, presumably in the spring.

Talk with you soon,

Holly

From: Wax, Peter N. <pwax@nd.gov>
Sent: Thursday, February 20, 2020 3:08 PM
To: Wirick, Holiday <wirick.holiday@epa.gov>
Subject: RE: Thanks - RE: Quick question about PFAS criteria

Dear Holly:

Mr. Berg is a nice man. Not sure if he is being impacted by his neighbor or not. The crick runs onto and through his property entering from the south and curving west. It's headwaters are after draining through a large wetland. The tile drain is to the east. They did them right (under 80 acres they do not need a permit in North Dakota) but they still did them right. They built wetlands to capture the outfall at 2 acres of constructed wetland for 1 acre of impact to existing wetland. It was a very wet year last year and so the ground water never stopped flowing. Very difficult to tease out the contributions without water quality from all sources. Nothing running at -14 degrees so we wait. Mr. Berg was not happy but hey no way to write a violation on such thin evidence.

I will go back when everything is running and sample up, down, sideways, and his wells to get a better picture.

Pete

From: Wirick, Holiday
Sent: Thursday, February 20, 2020 3:06 PM
To: Wax, Peter N. <pwax@nd.gov>
Subject: Thanks - RE: Quick question about PFAS criteria

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Thanks Pete.

I don't think many states have yet – I just know of NH. EPA is working on developing aquatic life criteria for PFAS but I don't know when they're expected to be published.

Also, just curious about how your meeting went with Mr. Berg. I believe you were planning to visit his property at the end of January to check out the drainage from his neighbor's with the high sulfate levels affecting his pasture.

Sorry I missed the beginning of the NSTEPs call today. Tina forgot to invite me!

Have a great evening,
Holly

From: Wax, Peter N. <pwax@nd.gov>
Sent: Thursday, February 20, 2020 1:57 PM
To: Wirick, Holiday <wirick.holiday@epa.gov>
Subject: RE: Quick question about PFAS criteria

Funny you should ask.

Not yet, is the short answer. We have begun our screening research in 2018 – seed draft report.

A second round of work is scheduled for this year.

Pete

From: Wirick, Holiday
Sent: Thursday, February 20, 2020 11:17 AM
To: Wax, Peter N. <pwax@nd.gov>
Subject: Quick question about PFAS criteria

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Hi Pete, I hope all is well and that you're enjoying this great weather...

Do you know whether there any plans for North Dakota to develop/adopt numeric aquatic life criteria for Perfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS)? We haven't discussed this so I presume no, but I thought I'd check.

We just got a “quick turn-around” inquiry from EPA’s Office of Water asking what states plan to adopt ALC for PFAS (not just translating a narrative into a permit limit) in state WQS rulemaking and submit to EPA.

Thanks. Talk with you soon,
Holly